

**METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR THE DETECTION  
OF BACTERIAL SPECIES**

**ABSTRACT**

5 The invention relates to compositions, methods and kits for the PCR-based detection of bacterial species. Methods are provided for increasing the specificity of a PCR-based bacterial assay. More specifically, primer sets and PCR-based assays are provided that amplify and detect conserved 16S rRNA gene sequences from multiple *Mycoplasma* species. The invention also provides kits for performing those assays, and compositions comprising oligonucleotide primers useful in those assays.